

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 13 with the following:

According to a variant, the polymer can have a molecular mass weight average molecular weight ranging between  $10^4$  and  $10^7$  daltons and a proportion of hydrophobic units Hb ranging between 0.5 and 60%.

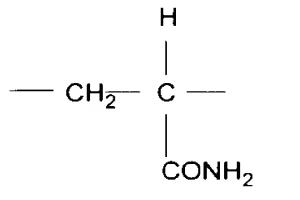
Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 16 with the following:

The polymer according to the invention can be selected from the group consisting of:

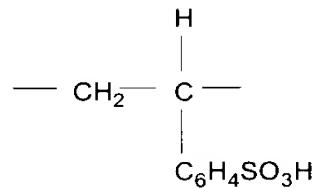
- HMPAM where R5 is H and Z1 is CONH<sub>2</sub>, R'5=CH<sub>3</sub>, Z2 is COOR'I with R'1=C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>19</sub>, and
- ~~- S1, S2 where Pa is H and Z1 is CONH<sub>2</sub>, R'5'H and Z2 is C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>O<sub>3</sub>H,~~
- HbI where Pa is H, Z1 is COOH, R'5 is H and Z2 is COOR' 1 with R'I is C<sub>4</sub>.

After the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 16 and before the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 22, please add the following:

The polymer according to the invention may also be S1, S2 having units of



and



Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 22 with the following:

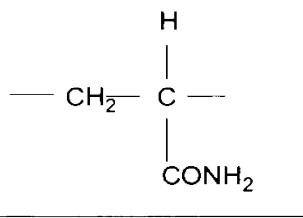
The mineral filler can consist of silica whose grain size ranges distribution range is between 5 and 200 µm and microsilica whose grain size distribution range is between 0.1 and 20 µm.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 6, line 14 through page 7, line 3 with the following:

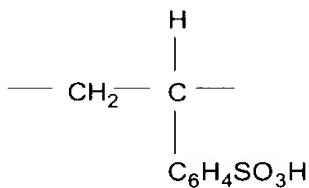
- **HMPAM**: acrylamide (Hy)/nonyl methacrylate (Hb) copolymer, according to the description above, with R5=H, Z1 is CONH2, R'5=CH3, Z2 is COOR'1 with R'1=C9H19; it can have a molecular mass weight average molecular weight of about  $8106 \cdot 10^6$  daltons and a hydrophobe (Hb) proportion ranging between 0.5 and 1.5 %;

- **S1, S2**: acrylamide (Hy)/styrene sulfonate (Hb) copolymers, branched or not, according to the description above, where R5 is H, Z1 is CONH2, R45=H, Z2 is

$\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{SO}_3\text{H}$  having units of



and



and having a molar ratio of about 50/50 and a ~~molar mass weight average molecular weight~~ ranging between 500,000 and  $5 \cdot 10^6$  daltons. S1 is not branched, S2 is branched. The branching agent used is N,N' methylene bis acrylamide MBA;

- Hb1: acrylic acid (Hy)/butyl acrylate (Hb) copolymer, where R5 is H, Z1 is COOH, R'5 is H and Z2 is COOR'1 with R'1 being C4, comprising about 80 % acrylate acrylic acid units, and ~~of molecular mass a weight average molecular weight~~ ranging between  $10^4$  and  $5 \cdot 10^4$  daltons.